

Rebecca Neville

From: Georgian Dream <info@gdfacts.com>
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To: Rebecca Neville
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Fake "Observer Organizations" Infiltrate Georgian Elections

Georgians go to the polls Saturday.

In recent days, [Misha Saakashvili](#) and his United National Movement (UNM) have sought to sow disinformation and undermine the legitimacy of the 31 October elections.

Now, their desperation has reached new levels.

According to public reports, the United National Movement (UNM) and other opposition parties have created [fake ‘observer’ organizations] to delegitimize election results and the electoral process. The scheme of the United National Movement (UNM) and other opposition parties – including those founded by [Murtaz Zodelava, Dimitri Shashkini, Khabeishvili, Giga Nasaridze, and similar odious figures](#) – is to be registered as election observer organizations.

These [fake observers](#) are preparing to create the illusion of electoral fraud, report nonexistent violations, incite turmoil, and create obstruction; all seeking to undermine the fledgling Georgian democracy. They cannot, and should not, be trusted.

These are not observers; they are not democrats. These are politically-motivated front organizations.

Full details of these fake observer organization can be found on GDFacts [here](#).

The recent international OSCE/ODIHR Interim Report on 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia [foreshadowed this scenario](#) when it found, “*Many ODIHR LEOM interlocutors expressed concerns about a considerable number of civil society organizations being linked to political parties*”.

This new [report](#) confirms the reporting of OSCE/ODIHR. Why is this happening? The approval rating of the Georgian Dream party moving into October elections approaches 60 percent, equating to support from more than half of voters within the country. This high approval rating has been confirmed through polling data from UK-based [Survation](#), and the [Georgian Institute of Politics](#).

Due to the commanding support for the Georgian Dream party from the voting population, opposition parties understand their chances of emerging victorious in October elections are slim – and so they are turning to incredulous means to undermine the democratic process. The chosen tactic of these [opposition groups](#) is to disguise themselves as so-called “election observers.”

According to a [report](#) published on the prevalence of so called “observer organizations” in Georgia, on the basis of public information, [it emerged that:](#)

- 97 of the 129 organizations are more or less neutral
- 32 of them are fake observer groups linked to specific opposition parties
- 20 of them affiliated with the National Movement
- 8 affiliated with European Georgia
- 2 affiliated with Strategy Aghmashenebeli
- 2 affiliated with the Alliance of Patriots

It is internationally recognized that Georgian electoral legislation is among the most liberal in the democratic world. Therefore, even biased organizations can observe the elections; however, Georgian and international communities must know that these organisations are not objective observers and they are not credible.

This fact is endorsed by the OSCE/ODIHR report; therefore it is paramount the observations and reports supplied by these imposter organizations not be included in reporting on Georgian Parliamentary organizations.

Despite the intentions and actions of opposition groups seeking to undermine Parliamentary elections, the Georgian Dream party is committed to conducting the democratic process in the most free, fair and transparent manner ever seen in Georgia. Even in an atmosphere manipulated by cunning and dishonest opposition, Georgian Dream leaders are confident the country will once again pass this important test of democracy.



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